

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098358

STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, CB

SUBJ: MOOSE- LOWENSTEIN REPORT

1. SFRC STAFFERS MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN ARE PRODUCING A REPORT OF THEIR RECENT TOUR OF SEA WHICH IS PRESENTLY CLASSIFIED SECRET AND IS IN PROCESS OF BEING REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES FOR DECLASSIFICATION.

2. PAYROLL PADDING. ONE OF THE ASSERTIONS MADE IN THE REPORT WAS THAT THE STAFFDEL WAS TOLD BY THE EMBASSY THAT ON ONE OCCASION ALL OF THE FANK UNITS OF ONE MILITARY REGION (MR) WERE NOT PAID. UPON QUESTIONING, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE MR IN QUESTION WAS REGION THREE. WE EXPRESSED DOUBTS, RESERVING THE RIGHT TO INSERT A DISSENTING FOOTNOTE. WE HAVE SINCE RECHECKED HERE AND DO NOT FIND ANY REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT ASIDE FROM REPORTS OF INDIVIDUAL MALFEASANCE AND SOME UNITS NOT BEING PAID. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT THE EMBASSY MIGHT SHED ON THIS POINT.

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3. ALSO IN THE REPORT, THE STAFFERS ASSERT THAT THEY WERE INFORMED BY CHIEF MEDT THAT THE EMBASSY WAS NOT AWARE OF A PROBLEM OF PHANTOM TROOPS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1972, AND THOUGH CHIEF MEDT HAD ARRIVED ON POST IN EARLY 1972, HE HAD NOT BEGUN RECEIVING FANK STRENGTH FIGURES UNTIL DECEMBER 1972. THE REPORT LAYS OUT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

BETWEEN MEDT, DAO, JCS AND STATE VIEWS CONCERNING THE NUMBERS OF PHANTOMS, STATING THAT MEDT HAD SAID THERE WERE ONLY 3000 PHANTOMS AND DAO FELT THERE WERE ONLY 16,000 WHILE STATE AND JCS FELT THE NUMBERS OF EFFECTIVES WAS IN THE REALM OF 150,000 AND 175,000-190,000 RESPECTIVELY. WHILE THESE FIGURES MAY BE DELETED, THRUST OF REPORT OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTS TO SHOW MISSION HAS BEEN LAX. WE INTEND TO INSERT A FOOTNOTE THAT INDICATES GKR EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM AND TO NOTE THAT PHANTOM/ EFFECTIVES RATIO HAS BEEN REDUCED.

4. POWS. THE STAFFERS ALSO CLAIM THAT GKR HAS NOT PERMITTED ICRC TO VISIT FANK PRISON CAMPS AND THAT GKR HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE CAMBODIA HAS NOT SIGNED GENEVA CONVENTION. THIS IS PATENTLY UNTRUE BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THE ICRC REP HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO VISIT CAMPS AS HE REQUESTED AS EARLY AS 1971.

5. NVA PRESENCE IN CAMBODIA. REPORT STATES THAT NVA TARGETTED AGAINST FANK ONLY AMOUNT TO 2,000 U-3,500 MEN AND THAT THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT NVA UNITS INVOLVED. WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO INCLUDE VIEW THAT THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 2,000 NVA AS COMBAT ADVISORS.

6. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS BEFORE FRIDAY MAY 25 WASHINGTON TIME. RUSH

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